

Claims

[c1] An aspiration biopsy needle, comprising:

- a needle of elongate, hollow construction having a proximal end and a beveled distal end;
- said needle having a uniform diameter along its extent;
- said beveled distal end forming a first sharp edge that scrapes tissue when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position;
- a first slot formed in said needle near said beveled distal end;
- said first slot being transversely disposed relative to a longitudinal axis of said needle;
- said first slot also being angled relative to a transverse axis of said needle such that a bottom of said first slot is positioned proximal to an opening of said first slot;
- said opening of said first slot being in open communication with an exterior surface of said needle;
- said first slot including a second sharp edge that scrapes tissue when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position;
- means for communicating a vacuum to said proximal end of said needle so that tissue scraped by said first sharp edge during proximal-to-distal travel of said nee-

dle is pulled into a lumen of said needle and so that tissue scraped by said second sharp edge during said proximal-to-distal travel of said needle is also pulled into said lumen.

- [c2] The needle of claim 1, wherein said slot has a circumferential extent of about one half the circumference of said needle.
- [c3] The needle of claim 1, wherein said second sharp edge is elevated with respect to an exterior surface of said needle.
- [c4] The needle of claim 1, wherein said second sharp edge is recessed with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.
- [c5] The needle of claim 1, further comprising a hinge means to which said second sharp edge is mounted to enable pivotal movement of said second sharp edge.
- [c6] The needle of claim 1, wherein a material to which said tissue clings is applied to said first and second sharp edges.